

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:
2 transmitting a cast frame for a destination device; and
3 receiving a data frame from the destination device in response to the destination
4 device receiving the cast frame for acknowledgement of receipt of the cast frame.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cast frame is a multicast frame
2 assembled in accordance with Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
3 802.11.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the cast frame is a broadcast frame
2 assembled in accordance with Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
3 802.11.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the cast frame comprises a first address
2 field including a first medium access control (MAC) address assigned to a group of
3 wireless units and a second address field including a second MAC address associated
4 with a device transmitting the cast frame.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein prior to receiving the data frame, the
2 method further comprises:
3 placing the first MAC address of the second address field of the cast frame into
4 a first address field of the data frame.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination device is a wireless unit.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the cast frame comprises a first address
2 field including a plurality of bits set to a predetermined value and a second address
3 field including a MAC address associated with a device transmitting the cast frame.

1 8. A method comprising:
2 determining that a cast frame is scheduled for transmission;

3 translating the cast frame into a plurality of unicast frames;
4 transmitting each of the plurality of unicast frames to a corresponding plurality
5 of destination devices; and
6 receiving an acknowledge frame from each of the plurality of destination
7 devices in response to receiving one of the plurality of unicast frames.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the cast frame is a multicast frame
2 assembled in accordance with Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
3 802.11.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the cast frame is a broadcast frame
2 assembled in accordance with Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
3 802.11.

1 11. A method comprising:
2 transmitting an Eavesdrop Unicast frame to a destination device; and
3 receiving a data frame from the destination device in response to the destination
4 device receiving the Eavesdrop Unicast frame for acknowledgement of receipt of the
5 cast frame.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein prior to receiving the data frame, the
2 method further comprises:
3 scanning to a channel carrying the Eavesdrop Unicast frame by a plurality of
4 devices including the destination device;
5 receiving of the Eavesdrop Unicast frame by the destination device.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the Eavesdrop Unicast frame includes
2 at least four address fields, a first address field including a destination address of the
3 destination device and a fourth address field including a medium access control (MAC)
4 address assigned to a plurality of devices including the destination device.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein after receiving the Eavesdrop Unicast
2 frame, the method further comprises:

3 overwriting contents within a first address field of the data frame with contents
4 from the fourth address field of the Eavesdrop Unicast frame.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the destination device is a wireless
2 unit.

1 16. The method of claim 12, wherein the Eavesdrop Unicast frame includes
2 at least four address fields, a first address field including a destination address of the
3 destination device and a fourth address field including a plurality of bits set to a
4 predetermined value.

1 17. A wireless network system comprising:
2 a plurality of wireless units;
3 a fixed backbone network; and
4 an access point in communication with both the fixed backbone network and the
5 plurality of wireless units, the access point to transmit a cast frame for one of the
6 plurality of wireless units and to receive a data frame from the one of the plurality of
7 wireless units in response to the one of the plurality of wireless units receiving the cast
8 frame for acknowledgement of receipt of the cast frame.

1 18. The wireless network system of claim 17, wherein the cast frame is a
2 multicast frame assembled in accordance with Institute of Electrical and Electronics
3 Engineers (IEEE) 802.11.

1 19. The wireless network system of claim 17, wherein the cast frame is a
2 broadcast frame assembled in accordance with Institute of Electrical and Electronics
3 Engineers (IEEE) 802.11.

1 20. A software module placed in a stored medium and executed by an
2 electronic device, the software module comprising:
3 a first module to transmit a cast frame for a destination device; and
4 a second module to detect receipt of a data frame from the destination device to
5 acknowledge receipt of the cast frame.